MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 MARCH 1982

Israel

No-Confidence Vote -- Following a tie vote in the Knesset over the Alignment's no-confidence motion, the Cabinet turned down Prime Minister Menahem Begin's proposal to resign, Jerusalem radio reported. If the Cabinet finds difficulty functioning because of the equal balance in the Knesset, it will advance the Knesset elections to November 1982, the radio said. On the other hand, if it can continue to function, it will advance the elections to May 1983.

Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television that the 10 Cabinet ministers and 2 Agudat Yisrael representatives who outvoted Begin and 5 other ministers on the resignation issue had argued that the 58-58 tie in the Knesset was a coincidence that is unlikely to be repeated. According to the radio, Begin was not necessarily unhappy at the Cabinet decision, despite earlier reports that he was determined to resign in the event of a tie on the no-confidence motion. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres told the radio that the Alignment now intends to take action to replace the government, which has proved it lacks both policy and principles.

Earlier, both Jerusalem and IDF radios had proveded extensive coverage of the Knesset debate that preceded the vote. In excerpts of his speech broadcast by Jerusalem radio, Peres attacked a number of government policies, including the "siege" of Golan Druze villages, the creation of a Palestinian "ghetto" inside Israel's territories and the deterioration of relations with the United States. However, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon sharply attacked Peres in his speech, excerpts of which were broadcast by the radio, accusing the Labor leader of allowing the PLO to take over key positions in Judaea and Samaria when he was defense minister.

West Bank, Gaza Situation -- An Arab youth in Hebron died from gunshot wounds early on 24 March, IDF radio reported. The radio also said further distrubances had broken out in Judaea and Samaria. Defense Minister Sharon had previously told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affiars Committee that the rioting in Judaea and Samaria was calming down, IDF radio reported. Jerusalem radio reported minor disturbances in east Jerusalem on 23 March and indicated that many shops in the eastern sector remained closed. A curfew was imposed in Rafah on 24 March after disturbances there had increased, IDF radio reported. Disturbances had broken out in Rafah and Gaza the previous day, according to ITIM. Military courts in Judaea and Samaria handed out short prison terms and fines to 17 youths convicted of participating in recent disturbances, ITIM noted.

Relations With Egypt -- Egyptian presidential adviser Usamah al-Baz delivered a message to Menahem Begin from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak dealing with the autonomy negotiations, Jerusalem and the border demarcation, IDF radio reported. Mubarak's message was friendly, the radio said, but there has been no real progress toward resolving the problems, especially with regard to the border demarcation. Begin rejected Al-Baz' suggestion on Mubarak's behalf that international arbitration resolve the dispute over the Tabah area. However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, Al-Baz said he was satisfied with the talks, adding that all outstanding issues will be resolved in the immediate future.

Egypt

Mubarak Remarks -- There is an attempt to sour Egypt's relations with the United States, but it will not succeed because these relations are extremely strong, President Mubarak said at a National Democratic Party parliamentary group meeting reported by MENA.

AL-JUMHUIRYAH Commentary -- In connection with the no-confidence motion in the Knesset, an AL-JUMHURIYAH commentary reported by MENA demanded that Israeli opposition parties prove to the Palestinian people that they will adopt a new policy on the West Bank and the autonomy question, which is "stumbling because of Begin's stubbornness."

Kuwait

Statement on Palestinian Struggle -- The National Assembly issued a statement, broadcast by Kuwait radio, appealing to Arab governments to open their borders to Palestinian fedayeen action and to supply funds and weapons to strengthen the Palestinian cause. It also called on Arab governments to resort to armed struggle against Israel and to reject all initiatives and solutions based on capitulation.

Bisharah Resignation Call -- The National Assembly has called for 'Abdallah Bisharah's resignation from the post of Gulf Cooperation Council secretary general following his description of Kuwait's democratic experiment as "a luxury," KUNA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- On 24 March, Iranian forces launched the second phase of their current operation west of Shush and Dezful, and advancing troops captured new strategic positions, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. According to earlier communiques broadcast by the radio, 650 sq km of Iranian territory were recaptured, 5,000 Iraqis were killed and 7,000 wounded, 4,853 prisoners were transferred behind the front and 6 Iraqi planes were downed on 22 and 23 March by antiaircraft units and Iranian aircraft. Egyptian and Jordanian soldiers are among the prisoners, Tehran radio said. It also reported the destruction of 80 Iraqi tanks and the downing of 1 Sukhoi plane by the Iranian Air Force and another by the ground forces.

Iraqi forces have launched a large-scale counterattack, encircling some Iranian units and causing others to retreat, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio announced. Iraqi forces destroyed 12 Iranian brigades, killed over 10,000 soldiers, captured 50 tanks and knocked out 44 others. Iraqi fighters flew 119 combat missions and Iraqi helicopters 17, all returning safely except for 1 plane that crashed over enemy territory, the communique concluded. According to a captured Iranian lieutenant colonel cited by INA, Syrian and Libyan military units and military experts are now in Iran.

Musavi Interview -- This victory strengthens Iran's position as the most powerful country in the region, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said in an interview reported by Tehran radio. He added that Iran will use its power for peace, that the United States must remove itself from the Persian Gulf, and that the small Gulf countries will find life under the protection of Islamic peace more fruitful than any dependence on the superpowers. Musavi also said that the 77th Division, which an Iraqi commander cited by Monte Carlo Radio claimed had been completely destroyed, will be among the forces that will terminate Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime.

Iran

Police and Islamic Guards killed seven Mojahedin-e Khalq leaders, including three of the organization's Majlis candidates, according to a guards corps announcement broadcast by Tehran radio.

Afghanistan

The recently concluded PDPA congress ended abruptly due to fears of armed clashes between the rival Khalq and Parcham factions, according to Kabul sources cited by AFP. Interior Minister Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy interrupted President Babrak Karmal's speech, objecting to his ministry being called the "ministry of bandits," and Politburo member Saleh Mohammad Ziray charged factionalism in the choice of the 836 delegates, the Kabul sources claimed.

DAILY REPORT

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BAKHTAR COMMENTS ON REAGAN POLICY TOWARD AFGHANISTAN

LD220654 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 22 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 21 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- Mr. Reagan, the president of the United States of America, completed his farce of the so-called Day of Solidarity with Afghanistan with the presidential communique published by the U.S. presidency.

The BAKHTAR news agency strongly condemns and denounces the irresponsible statements of Mr. Reagan included in the presidential communique and reveals it as another example of the lies, slanders and interference in the internal affairs of an independent and freeborn Afghanistan.

Why the present moment has been chosen by Reagan and his accomplices for such a farce staged by him? It is due to several reasons. Firstly, shattering and crushing blows have been inflicted to the counter-revolution. Secondly, the people of Afghanistan are forging ahead for the construction of a new and prosperous society and the enemies of Afghanistan can not bear to see the spectacular successes being scored every day by the people of Afghanistan under the leadership of the PDPA. Thirdly, the revolutionary strength of the people is being ever further strengthened and consolidated and the prestige and credibility of the DRA are being increased day by day in the international arena. Fourthly, Reagan and his Chinese and European accomplices are faced with the paucity of misleading propaganda materials against Afghanistan. Thus, they staged the farce of the so-called Day of Solidarity with Afghanistan in order to offer them a chance to set in motion a new wave of hostile and slanderous propaganda against the independent and revolutionary Afghanistan.

The presidential communique was another example of the explicit intervention to the internal affairs of independent Afghanistan by the United States. In the comprehensive telecast speech delivered by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, on the eve of the Afghan new year, 1361, it is said that Reagan, the president of the U.S.A. has lately tried to give a new dimension to his aggressive strategy against the DRA under the title of the so-called Afghanistan Day. These attempts are a part of the policy of aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of our free and independent country, the revolutionary Afghanistan.

A part of the message issued by the National Committee of the NFP of the DRA on the eve of the new Afghan year, 1361, says in this regard that the main objective of such a ludicrous and childish show is to conceal the undeniable fact of shameful interference made by the U.S. imperialism in our internal affairs and the diversion of the public opinion from the imperialist policy, pressure, military and political penetration and the open aggression and interferences carried on by Reagan.

Mr. Reagan in the presidential communique has demgagocially shed corcodile tears over the rights of Afghanistan. We ask from Mr. Reagan that are you, Mr. Reagan, not number one responsible person for all the crimes committed by the counter-revolution in Afghanistan. Are not the counter-revolutionaries armed, militarily trained, financed and sent to Afghanistan by you for all kinds of subversive activities? We address to Mr. Reagan, say whatever you want to say, but, we the people of Afghanistan are traversing the invincible and indomitable path of revolution and prosperity, that is: The path of the construction of a new and just society with firm and irreversible will and determination.

We conclude the commentary with what was mentioned in this connection in the speech of Babrak Karmal on the eve of the Afghan new year. "I would like to elucidate once again that Mr. Reagan and his likes can not or do not want to understand that the life has nullified the sum total of the efforts launched by the counter-revolution. Our people will carry forward the holy banner of the struggle for the cause of creating a new society led by the PDPA and those who desire to obstruct our path of humane and sacred struggle are doomed to complete failure."

DRA REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL APPROVES BUDGET

LD210614 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0423 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 20 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- The second periodical meeting of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA for the year 1360 (1981-1982) was held here today under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA.

In this meeting Mohammad Anwar Farzam, secretary of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, reported on the activities of revolutionary council during the time between its two periodical meetings. Later plan of the country's economic and social development for 1361 and the state budget for 1361 was presented by 'Abdol Majid Sarbuland, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The decrees on the activities of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the economic and social development plan of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan for the year 1361 (1982-83) and the 1361 state budget were approved.

At the end of the meeting Babrak Karmal addressed the members of the Revolutionary Council and said that today's resolutions placed extremely important tasks before them. He hoped that the year 1361 will be the year of decisive and complete defeat of the counter revolution and our country's economy.

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council, the government, the party and state authorities and every individual member of the Revolutionary Council will have grave and heavy duties to perform in the new year, Babrak Karmal added.

He hoped that all opportunities will be utilized for the implementation of the development programmes of the state.

AFGHAN WOMEN DENOUNCE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

LD232312 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan has denounced the evil interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs by international imperialism.

World-devouring imperialism, led by U.S. imperialism -- this enemy of millions of workers in the world -- together with its satanic and devilish power, the hellish CIA, has aroused the indignation and hatred of hundreds of millions of toiling humans throughout the world.

Deadly weapons, especially the chemical weapons of international imperialism led by the great satan of war [words indistinct] U.S. imperialism, who supplies them to Afghan counterrevolutionaries, have killed thousands of our toiling compatriots.

On the instructions of the demonic Pentagon, the counterrevolutionaries do not hesitate to use even chemical weapons. This is a most savage crime, the poisoning of schoolchildren in Kabul and in the country's provinces is one of the devilish actions of counterrevolutionary bands in our country.

The discovery of chemical weapons with [words indistinct] in the possession of counterrevolutionaries in Herat Province and other parts of our country is clear evidence of the horrible crimes of murderous U.S. imperialsm, connected with the use of [words indistinct] in our country.

Counterrevolutionaries, who have been killing youths and women in our country with U.S., British and Chinese weapons -- in the days leading up to the worldwide celebration of International Womens Day on 8 March -- have martyred three of our sisters in their homes in Kabul. They were killed in a most cruel manner and their homes were plundered.

These criminals, these counterrevolutionary bands, these mojahedin of the interests of international imperialism who are operating in the disguise of defending Islam, have admitted their barbaric crime.

At this moment thousands of our women are in the worst possible psychological condition because of the martrydom of their husbands and sons. They curse the organizers of the undeclared war against your young republic.

NEWLY-FORMED REBEL FRONT ELECTS PRESIDENT

BK210610 Hong Kong AFP in English 0031 GMT 21 Mar 82

[Text] Islamabad, 21 Mar (AFP) — Professor Abdul Rasul Sayyaf has been elected president of the newly-formed Afghan rebel front, an umbrella organization for seven resistance groups, Afghan resistance sources said here Saturday.

Mr Sayyaf, known for his neutral stance, headed the former Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan. That group disbanded after a split with two if its six member-parties.

Mr Sayyaf, educated in Egypt, is also a scholar of Arab civilization.

The new rebel front, announced last Sunday, is called Unity of Islamic Mujahidin (Moslem fighters) Afghanistan and is run by 14 Afghan guerrilla leaders.

KARACHI PAPER REPORTS AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ATTACK

GF191143 Karachi NAWA-E-WAQT in Urdu 16 Mar 82 p 1

[Text] London, 15 Mar (AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE) — Mujahidin have used grenades to destroy the office of the assistant commissioner's office in the (Vand) area in Qandahari. Fifteen Soviet-Karmal soldiers guarding it were killed.

An agency source reporting from Qandahar says that at 2200 on 10 March a group of freedom fighters took up positions outside the government offices, which are guarded by about 600 soldiers, tanks and armored vehicles. The guerrillas dropped grenades on the offices. As a result, there was great confusion among the guards and the buildings caught fire.

MARTIAL LAW DECLARED, GENERAL ERSHAD TAKES OVER

Martial Law Proclamation

BK240640 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Martial law has been proclaimed throughout Bangladesh with effect from today, 24 March, and Chief of the Army Staff Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad has taken over as the chief martial law administrator.

A martial law proclamation issued in Dacca late last night said that it had become necessary to place the country under martial law in the greater national interest and also in the interest of national security. It said the responsibility had fallen for the change upon the armed forces of the country as part of their obligation toward the people and the country.

The proclamation said [words indistinct] Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad took over and assumed all and full powers of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh with immediate effect as the chief martial law administrator.

The proclamation said the chief martial law administrator assumed the full command and control of all the armed forces of the country.

The constitution of the country has been suspended and the Jatiya Sangsad [parliament]. The proclamation said the president, the vice president, the speaker and the deputy speaker have ceased to hold the office and the Council of Ministers have been dissolved with immediate effect. A council of advisers or ministers shall be appointed by the chief martial law administrator to aid and advise him in the exercise of his functions. The chief martial law administrator shall be the chief executive and head of the government.

Declaring the martial law, Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad sought the help and mercy of almighty Allah and blessing of our great patriotic people in assuming all and full powers of the government.

Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mahboob Ali Khan and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud have been made deputy chief martial law administrators while five zonal martial law administrators have been given the responsibility of the respective martial law zones comprising the civil districts grouped in five zones by the chief martial law administrator.

Under the martial law proclamation, all acts, ordinances, president's orders and other orders, proclamations, rules, regulations, by-laws, notifications and other legal instruments in force shall continue to remain in force until repealed, revoked or amended. The judges of the Supreme Court, including the chief justice, attorney general, chief election commissioner or commissioners, chairmen and members of the public service commission, the comptroller and auditor general and others in the services of the republic will continue to function. All proceedings arising out of and in connection with writ petitions under Article 102 of the suspended constitution shall obey. [sentence as heard]

The proclamation said no court including the Supreme Court or tribunal or authority shall have any power to call in question in any manner whatsoever or declare illegal or void this proclamation or any martial law regulation or order or other orders made by the chief martial law administrator in pursuance thereof or any declaration made by or under this proclamation; all mentions in the proclamation to have been made or anything done or any action taken by or under this proclamation; and mentions in this proclamation to have them done or taken or anything done or any action taken by or under any martial law regulations all order or other orders made him in pursuance of this proclamation. [sentence as heard]

Subject to these provisions, all courts, including the Supreme Court, in existence, immediately recorded proclamation, [as heard] shall continue to function but subject to the provisions of the martial law regulations, orders or other orders made by the chief martial law administrator.

The chief martial law administrator will nominate any person as president of the country at any time. He may rescind or cancel such nominations from time to time and nominate another president as the president of Bangladesh. The president so nominated by the chief martial law administrator shall be the head of the state and act on and in accordance with the advice of the chief martial law administrator and perform such functions as assigned to him by the chief martial law administrator.

The chief martial law administrator may make from time to time martial law regulations, orders and instructions among others providing for setting up of special military courts, tribunals and summary military courts for the trial and punishment of any offence under martial law regulations or orders, also contravention thereof and offences under any other law.

The chief martial law administrator, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, is addressing the nation over radio and television some time today.

Sattar Defends Takeover

BK241005 Hong Kong AFP in English 0937 GMT 24 Mar 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] New Delhi, 24 Mar (AFP) -- Deposed Bangladesh President Abdus Sattar has defended the army takeover which resulted in the ousting of his civilian government in a predawn bloodless coup in Dacca today, All India Radio said quoting its correspondent in the Bangladesh capital.

The correspondent quoted the 76-year-old Sattar as saying in a nationwide broadcast, that martial law had become necessary in view of the deteriorating law and order situation and the rampant corruption in the country.

The broadcast by the deposed president came as a surprise to diplomatic observers here, who had believed that Mr. Sattar was under house arrest.

It is, however, not clear if Mr Sattar made the broadcast of his own free will or was forced into it, observers said.

Meanwhile, there was complete calm in Dacca and other parts of Bangladesh with no resistance to the army takeover, airline passengers arriving in Calcutta from the Bangladesh capital said.

The passengers, interviewed by PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said there was no fighting in Dacca. Army units were, however, patrolling the streets and the airport was under complete army control.

The Indian radio, however, did not disclose the whereabouts of Mr Sattar and other ministers.

The passengers were also unable to give any clues to their whereabouts, but UNITED NEWS OF INDIA (UNI) news agency quoted informed sources in Calcutta as saying that Prime Minister Azizur Rahman and some other ministers were under house arrest in Dacca.

There was, however, no independent confirmation of this.

The passengers gave the first accounts of the happenings in Dacca where Army Chief Lt Gen Hussain Mohammed Ershad took over power in a predawn coup today dissolving the Council of Ministers, suspending the parliament and proclaiming martial law.

Ershad Addresses Nation

BK240958 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0920 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] Chief martial law administrator and commander in chief of the armed forces Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, told the nation a short while ago that the principal objective of the martial law is to establish a happy, prosperous and exploitation free soceity in the country. The chief martial law administrator said the present martial law is entirely different from the conventional type. He said the (?surge) of this martial law is the 90 million of this country and as such it is inseparately linked with the improvement of the lot of the people. He said the new efforts will reflect the hopes and aspirations of the teeming millions. General Ershad declared that the ultimate and the most cherished objective of the martial law authority is to reestablish democracy in the country in accordance with the ideas and the ideals of the people. A democracy, that is sought to be established, must be capable of fulfilling the needs of the people. He said it will be in such an order that will enable the people to fully and effectively participate in all activities of the state. The people will get such a representative of their own under this type of democracy which will be of their own [word indistinct] and will be dedicated to their own welfare.

The chief martial law administrator said, God willing, it will not take much time to achieve this objective if we all work unitedly and sincerely. The principal objective of the martial law authority will be to hold free elections as soon as possible after creating a conducive atmosphere.

Referring to the economic situation in the country, General Ershad hoped that an economic resolution will have to be initiated for the attainment of economic emancipation and for establishment of an exploitation-free social system. We will have to bring our journey toward such course unitedly imbued with sincerity and dedication, honesty, dutifulness, hard work and the high ideal of (?nationalism).

The chief martial law administrator said the objectives of this new economic system will be to contain the upward trend of commodity prices, to face the food crisis, on an emergency basis, achieve self-reliance in all spheres of our national life by reducing dependence on foreign aid and promote the nationalized industrial and commercial enterprises into profit earning organization.

He said this will require austerity on our part, reduction of administrative expenses and check the wastage of national resources. Economic mismangement and offenses committed therewith will be dealt with an iron hand under the martial law, he added. General Ershad said a revolutionary program will have to be undertaken in the sphere of agricultural development and all-out efforts will have to be made for increasing food production after necessary land reforms. General Ershad said uninterrupted production will have to be ensured in the industrial sector by adopting an effective and realistic program. He said a congenial atmosphere will have to be created to encourage investment. At the same time, efforts will have to be made for ensuring an improvement in the standards of living of workers. The chief martial law administrator said realistic measures will hawe to be taken for solving the unemployment in the country. Measures will have to be taken for the successful utilization of the country's vast resource of manpower in the extensive development activity.

General Ershad said for creating a far-reaching impact on all sphere of our national life the armed forces will actively participate along with the people in the new development and economic system. He said this will create a new horizon in the economic development of the nation.

The chief martial law administrator said the martial law administration is determined to free the society from the clutches of all (?present) corruption which has engulfed and polluted the social life. He declared corruption as number one national enemy and proclaimed an all out crusade against it. He assured the people that all categories of corrupt elements will be dealt with an iron hand. He, however, reminded the people that the roots of corruption are very deep and effective measures will have to be taken and soon. (?Proper) atmosphere will be created for eliminating corruption from the society once and for all.

On the foreign policy of the new government, General Ershad said we firmly believe in the principle of friendship to all and malice to none. He said our foreign policy is based on the principles of sovereign equality, noninterference in other's internal affairs and solution of all problems through peaceful means. Our relations with all friendly countries will continue uninterrupted. He said he lay special emphasis on good relations with the neighboring countries. We will continue our efforts to implement the far-sighted, good proposals initiated by late Ziaur Rahman for establishing regional cooperation among the South Asian nations, he said. He said the new government will abide by all the international and regional treaties and agreements which Bangladesh is a party to.

Earlier, Justice Abdus Sattar expressed the hope that a changover will usher in a new era of peace, justice and progress in the country. In a brief speech over radio and television this afternoon, he said the proclamation of martial law had become indispensable owing to the prevailing political, economic, and the law and order situation. The former president said he believed that our armed forces would not hesitate to take any step for the social and economic uplift of the country. He acknowledged with gratitude the all out cooperation he received as elected president from all quarters including the armed forces.

ALL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, DEMONSTRATIONS BANNED

BK241218 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The chief martial law administrator has banned political activities and any kind of demonstrations and protests in the greater national interest.

MUSAVI ON SADDAM'S INTENTION 'TO PARADE' POW'S

LD231916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Following the news of the victory of the combatants of Islam on the battlefronts, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi granted an exclusive interview to our correspondent.

Answering a question regarding international reaction toward the victory of our warriors, the prime minister said that today international imperialism understands well that the Islamic revolution has become an undeniable reality and must be accepted.

Western news agencies cannot deny this great victory. Once again, our nation has imposed its will upon international imperialism. The nation has shown it is possible to stand against a world of conspiracy and plotting like Ebrahim, the prophet who single handedly faced world conspiracy by relying upon God; our nation has shown it is possible to stand against this conspiracy and emerge from it with pride. This victory strengthens Iran's position as the most powerful country in the region. We announce that we will use our power for peace only.

We have repeatedly announced that the Persian Gulf is an Islamic Gulf; and I would like to emphasize to the small countries of the Persian Gulf region that life under the protection of Islamic peace can be more fruitful for them than any sort of dependence on superpowers. We announce that America must remove itself from the Persian Gulf.

Answering a question on reports that Saddam claims to have recently captured a large number of the combatants of Islam and intends to put them on parade tomorrow, the prime minister confirmed that our information services have reported that tomorrow Saddam will parade all the prisoners captured since the start of the war; this will take place with the full coordination of international propaganda services. The prime minister emphasized that the absence of either of the famous POW's from tomorrow's parade will mean that they have either been tortured so severely that they are not able to march, or they have been martyred by the Ba'thist executioners. We would like to see the former petroleum minister captured in Abadan participate in tomorrow's parade to show that the rumors about his martyrdom are baseless. However, Saddam's action is a propaganda reaction to the ever increasing wave of public protest in Iraq.

Imagine that a sparsely populated country like Iraq has lost more than 20,000 people in the war. Sacrifices for what purpose? For the sake of safeguarding U.S. interests in the region, strengthening Israel's position and promoting the Camp David plan! Well, it is natural for Iraq to protest and for world public opinion to ask Saddam: Why did you invade the Islamic homeland? I must say that tomorrow Saddam might want to answer this question, but his reply will be ridiculous.

Answering a question about the Iraqi claim that Iran's 77th Division has been completely destroyed, the prime minister replied that the 77th division is serving the revolution with all of its resources intact. He said he thinks one of the forces which will terminate the life of Saddam's regime will be the same 77th Division.

CAPTURED IRAQI SOLDIERS ARRIVE IN TEHRAN

GF240621 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0615 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] We hereby announce to our dear listeners that a number of Iraqi soldiers captured by the forces of Islam during the recent offensive arrived in Tehran at 0930 and will parade from the railway station to the officers' faculty.

ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUES REPORT ON FIGHTING

Over 10,000 Dead, Wounded

LD231124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Unnumbered joint communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the victorious Fat'h [victory] operation 650 km of our Islamic homeland have been recaptured to date from Saddamist invaders and are now controlled by Islamic forces. Following these operations our combatants destroyed a large part of the enemy forces and succeeded in capturing all the personnel of the 5th Battalion of the 99th Brigade of Iraqi forces together with all their equipment and in destroying that brigade's 6th Battalion. The casualties sustained by the enemy to date are reportedly 5,000 dead and more than 7,000 wounded; the dead and wounded are still being counted. During this operation our combatants succeeded in capturing a large number of Iraqi personnel. As of noon today, 4,853 of those captured had been transferred to areas behind the frontline. Counting and evacuating the rest of the prisoners is still in process.

At present the battle is continuing on the fronts and the forces of Islam have the upper hand. The deceived Iraqi Army should realize that Saddam has deceived it and that resistance against the forces of Islam will result in nothing other than death and destruction. It is the divine will of God that fighting against truth and the forces loyal to truth should result in nothing other than defeat and disgrace. So we ask the remaining Iraqi forces to join the army of Islam before it is too late and to stop being slaves of Saddam's dreams and the tricks of this subservient agent, servant of (?Zionism).

Communique No 828

LD231828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Communique No 828 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Oh ye brave and heroic fighters in the fields of battle between truth and falsehood, may you be victorious and may your strength be increased.

Dear revolutionary Iranian compatriots. Just as we informed you of the victories and achievements of the fighters of Islam on the fronts west of Dezful in the joint communique of the armed forces and the guards corps, we now inform you of the activities and operations on the rest of the battlefields.

By overflying the battle zones and supporting the operations of the units from the ground forces, the brave and high-flying pilots of the air force of the Islamic Republic of Iran added to the victories that they scored yesterday by inflicting heavy losses and damages upon the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces in five separate attacks today against enemy positions of the (Konaneh) and Emamzadeh 'Abbas fronts. All of our pilots returned safely and victoriously to their bases.

Yesterday and today, the antiaircraft units and the brave pilots of the air force downed six Iraqi planes. On the Salehabad and (Meymak) fronts, the exchange of artillery and other heavy weapons fire continued between our forces and the enemy, and the fighting on the (Meymak) front was more intense.

On these fronts six enemy vehicles and five supply depots were destroyed, and a number of the forces of blasphemy were killed our wounded. On the Sumar front, a number of tank positions, one observation post and two enemy supply depots were destroyed. In Gilan-e Gharb four trucks belonging to the aggressive Iraqi forces were set on fire in their parking places, and Iraqi supply routes and depots came under fire and suffered some damages. Our forces attacked the Iraqi forces' positions and put them out of action. On one of the fronts in this region, one enemy tank with its crew, four trucks, one ammunition depot and one camp kitchen belonging to the aggressive Iraqi forces were destroyed.

The activities of the heroic members of irregular, tribal forces in the areas under their protection have been very successful. The heroic forces of the gendarmerie brought the positions of Saddam's forces in (Nowsud) under their fire and inflicted heavy losses and casualties upon them. According to observers on the front lines, heavy smoke could be seen coming from enemy positions. On the (Kani-Sakht) front our forces responded to the enemy fire, silencing it and destroying one ammunition depot and a number of supply depots belonging to the Iraqi forces. The ground forces are inflicting crushing blows upon the aggressive Iraqi forces. On the Marivan front, they destroyed one of their supply bridges; and on the Paveh front, they destroyed one truck and one ammunition depot of Saddam's deceived forces.

The exchange of fire has continued during the past 24 hours on the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts. As a result of the ground forces artillery fire on the enemy's positions and installations in Al Faw, considerable damage was inflicted upon the enemy.

Communique No 5

GF240605 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Joint Communique No 5 of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

This morning at 0100 the second phase of the Fat'h operation codenamed Ya Zahra began and the Islamic warriors launched their vast offensive against the deceived mercenaries west of Shush and Dezful. They are advancing at the moment. Our courageous combatants have so far managed to capture new strategic positions and they have destroyed a large number of enemy forces. At 0500 they succeeded in completely destroying 2 tank companies of the (Shebli-ya) battalion in one of the axis, destroying and capturing a large number of enemy forces and obtaining many spoils of war. More details of this victory will be announced in future communiques.

Once again, the Muslim nation -- ever present on the scene -- is asked to pray that God's triumph and his invisible help be with out warriors.

IRAQI BRIGADE CAPTURED, EQUIPMENT CONFISCATED

LD231736 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Exceprt] According to reports, continuing the relentless battle of the brave warriors of Islam against the feeble enemy, our combatants captured personnel of the Iraqi 505 brigade and confiscated all of its equipment. The commanders of the 2d and 3d companies of the 505 brigade are among the prisoners taken during this victorious offensive. Thus far, more than 5,000 Iraqis have been captured; an accurate figure on the number of POW's will be announced later.

During the victorious operations of the brave warriors of Islam along with the destructions of 80 tanks and a large number of cannons, a large quantity of equipment was taken as booty, including various types of long-range artillery.

TWO IRAQI SOVIET-MADE AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN

LD231210 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] IRNA reports from 'Eynkhosh this morning that an Iraqi MiG which intended to bomb the positions of Islam's combatants on the fronts in 'Eynkhosh was downed by the defenders of the Islamic revolution. Its wounded pilot was captured moments later by our forces.

Another report, from (Chunaneh) 30 km to the west of Shush, states that an Iraqi Sukhoi was shot down at 1230 today by one of our champion fast-flying fighters.

IRAQI SOKHOI-22 DOWNED IN DASHT-E 'ABBAS REGION

LD232124 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpt] At 1300 today a Sokhoi-22 plane of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries was hit by a Shand missile belonging to the combatants of the armed forces of Islam and was downed in the Dasht-e 'Abbas region. The pilot was captured by the combatants of Islam.

JOURNALISTS INVITED TO VISIT FRONTS, IRAQ POW'S

LD241054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0903 GMT 24 Mar 82

["Text" of War Publicity Headquarters' statement -- date of issue not given]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The War Publicity Headquarters invites all reporters, photographers, news agencies, unbiased radio and television networks, and any international organization which is working for humane and philanthropic aims to visit Islamic Iran to witness the miraculous victories of the self-sacrificing forces of Islam; to see the large number of the forces of Saddam who have been liberated, who have been severed from Satan and who have now joined Islam; to visit hundreds of kilometers of regained territory in the deepest corners where the forces of blasphemy had advanced; and to see thousands upon thousands of seized weaponry and war material.

We are confident that viewing the results of the divine miracle of the forces of Islam, being present at the battlefronts, and talking to the forces of Saddam who have been liberated will not only further prove the truth of the claims of the fighters of Islam, but will also prove the hollowness and falsity of the claims of Saddam and his collaborators. It will also demonstrate the depth of the treason and crime committed by the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq against the noble, Muslim Iraqi nation and against the entire Islamic community.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran sincerely hopes that those who witness these scenes will truthfully report their observations so as to inform the aware and wakeful consciences of individuals throughout the world. By reflecting the realities of the battlefronts they will carry out their humane and professional responsibilities.

AYATOLLAH AMLASHI ON MANPOWER REHABILITATION

G7230550 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Feb 82 p 11

[Text] Prosecutor General and member of the Supreme Judicial Council Ayatollah Rabbani-Amlashi, as well as Mr 'Abdollah Jasebi, deputy prime minister in charge of projects and programs and head of the administrative and recruitment organization, yesterday afternoon participated in an exchange of views on the law concerning the rehabilitation of manpower in ministries and government offices and on better acquainting the members of Supreme Judicial Council, who are members of the supreme rehabilitation delegation, with this law.

The session started when the director of the Secretariat of the Supreme Judicial Council quoted Imam Khomeyni's words, "Let us put aside the thieves who stole and govern the country ourselves." Some verses from the holy Koran were then recited and, following this, Ayatollah Rabbani-Amlashi said: With the complete implementation of the law on manpower rehabilitation of the ministries, a request by the risen Iranian nation will be realized. In simple words, those who are not worthy of serving the Islamic Iranian nation will be released from government employment. This is a heavy burden on the shoulders of our oppressed nation and this has been relayed to you through this bill. You must replace the unclean elements in organizations with religiously faithful, clean and revolutionary individuals. Try to be the sources of worthy service in this country. Be careful that no wrong is done by you.

No unsuitable person must remain at work and no suitable person may lose his job. Beware of depriving anyone of godly and Islamic justice. Your main duty is to study the law well and learn about crimes, punishment and fines. Also be confident and do not become emotional. No emotion is allowed in judging under Islam. Do not be kind when you carry out your duties since this will be treason to the nation, the system and the ideology. Generally, try to change the situation in the offices from that of the past. Fire those who cannot be corrected and put to work those who have joined the revolution. Work for the revolution and cooperate in every way. Guide and train the undesirable ones who can be corrected and do not fire them under any circumstances. Your duty is judicial and you are on the verge of hell or heaven. Try to reconstruct the offices and guide the employees. If the preliminary and revisory commissions have made mistakes, correct them for the complete responsibility for rehabilitation is yours.

Mr Jasebi, deputy prime minister and head of the administrative and recruitment organization, was the next speaker. In part of his speech, he said: It has been 4 months since the law was approved. We have been able to implement several parts of this law. We prepared memorandums for this purpose and, in the second phase, we were able to complete 23 supreme supervisory delegations. We have a supreme delegation to each ministry, the Majlis, the prime ministers' office and to the radio and television organization. These are the organizations which needed an independent supreme supervisory delegation answerable to the Islamic Majlis. The third phase was the formation of a secretariat, which is nearing completion. The fourth phase is the formation of preliminary and revisory delegations, which has begun and is continuing. During this session, Mr Jasebi also asked the prosecutor general for the formation of two competent courts for exact and speedy implementation of the law. He added: One reason for approval of this law is the lack of coordination in carrying out the purge bill in government offices and organizations. As a whole, there was not sufficient coordination among organizations in carrying out purges. Concluding, Mr Jasebi expressed the hope that all concerned will be safe from deviations, slip-ups and mistakes in the implementation of this law. Representatives of the Supreme Judicial Council in the supreme rehabilitation of manpower delegations in the various ministries and government organizations raised some questions at the end of this session and were answered appropriately by Mr Jasebi and the general prosecutor.

COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS APPROVES BUDGET BILL

LD202032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] According to a central news unit report, the Council of Guardians held an extraordinary meeting today during which it continued earlier meetings' discussions on the budget bill for 1361 [year beginning 21 March 1982] a bill already passed by the Majlis. The Council of Guardians then decided that the bill does not contravene religious rulings nor the Constitution.

The council also debated a proposal governing urban lands in the light of the amendments made on the proposal by the Majlis on 18 March and decided that the proposal is not in contravention of religious rulings nor of the Constitution.

KHOMEYNI RECEIVES MINISTER, OTHER OFFICIALS

LD232104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Text] Mr Hoseyn Namazi, minister of economics and finance, together with that ministry's deputies, and Hojjat Ol-Eslam Ahmad Mowla'i, custodian of the Ma'sumeh shrine, met separately this morning with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

KHAMENE'I, MINISTERS VISIT MASHHAD 23 MAR

LD232132 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The central news unit reports Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president, together with the ministers of interior, defense, roads and transport and several other advisers, this morning flew to the holy city of Mashhad to pay homage to the eighth imam, Imam Reza -- peace be upon him -- and to pray for the final victory of the combatants of Islam.

The president and his entourage arrived in the holy city of Mashhad at 0930 and were welcomed by Mahdavi-Kani, member of the Council of Guardians; Va'ez-Tabasi, the imam's representative and custodian of Imam Reza's shrine; Foreign Minister Velayati; Imami-Kashani, deputy in the Islamic Majlis; Habibi, the governor general of Khorasan; and a number of clergymen and local officials. Immediately after their arrival, the president and those accompanying him went to the shrine of Imam Reza. The people of Mashhad and pilgrims shouted revolutionary slogans and welcomed the president.